

**REMARKS**

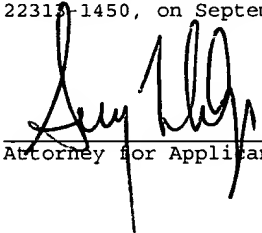
In the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated August 31, 2004, it is set forth the Amendment filed on August 5, 2004 is non-compliant because "Each claim has not been provided with the proper status identifier, and as such, the individual status of each claim cannot be identified". Applicants note that Claims 4, 6, 8-9, 11, 14-15, 17-18, 22, 24-36, 38-41, 43-49 did not use one of the 7 status identifiers.

Included above is the corrected section of the non-compliant amendment, i.e., the entire "Amendments to the claims" section of the amendment. Claims 4, 6, 8-9, 11, 14-15, 17-18, 22, 24-36, 38-41, 43-47 are identified as "Previously presented", and Claims 48-49 are identified as "New".

If the Examiner has any questions relating to the above or if further action is required on the part of Applicants, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant(s) immediately.

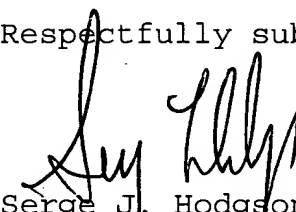
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22312-1450, on September 23, 2004.

  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

September 23, 2004  
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

  
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